

Diva Cucumber

(Cucumis sativus)

Delicious 2002 All-America Selections winner bred by Johnny's.

AAS trial judges throughout North America agreed - Diva just might be the best-tasting cuke on the planet. Diva looks like a regular salad cucumber but with a much smoother, thin, no-peel skin. Distinctly tender, crisp, sweet, bitter-free, and seedless; especially flavorful harvested small, about the size of a pickle. Plants are gynoecious (all-female) and parthenocarpic (grow fruits without pollination). Resistant to both mildews and scab. Foliage is nonbitter, hence not as attractive to cucumber beetles as some varieties. Adapted to open field production and under row covers or poly tunnels. Days to Maturity or Bloom: 58

[Video: How to Prune Cucumbers](http://www.johnnyseeds.com/MediaPlayer.aspx?VideoID=29)

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Planting:

Sow indoors 3-4 weeks prior to last frost or direct seed after all risk of frost. For indoor planting use 2 inch [square jiffy strip pots](#) and plant 1-2 seeds per square; thin to ensure one plant per pot. Plant seeds ½-1" deep, transplant or space plants 6" apart in rows 4-6' apart. Plants are tender, so soil should be warm, 18-24°C (65-75°F) for germination to begin. If growing on a trellis, space plants 18" apart.

DIRECT SEEDING: Wait until soil is warm, at least 70°F (21°C), usually at least a week after last frost. Cucumber seeds will not germinate at a soil temperature below 50°F (10°C) and germinate slowly at 68°F (20°C). Sow about 2" apart, 1/2" deep, rows 5-6' apart. Thin to about 8" apart.

Growing:

Cucumbers require full sun and soil pH of 6.0 to 6.8. As they are heavy feeders, an application of compost or well rotted manure worked into the planting area will help. Regular applications of a complete soluble fertilizer during the growing season is beneficial. Plants should not be allowed to wilt. Make sure they are well watered before transplanting. Spread a mulch around plants before they start to vine, to cut down on weeds and conserve moisture. The mulch will also help to keep the fruit clean.

Harvest:

Pick slicing cucumbers when they reach 6-8" long; pickling types at 3-5". Keep mature cucumbers picked off the vines to encourage a longer yield. Harvest cucumbers for pickling early in the morning.

Pests & Diseases:

Striped or spotted cucumber beetles can emerge from the soil in spring and nibble on the leaves and stems of emerging plants. The beetles spread a bacterial wilt which causes plants to wilt and die before bearing fruit.

Companions:

Bush bean, cabbage family, corn, dill, eggplant, lettuce, radish, pea, tomato.